



[“Donkeys, Elephants, and The Cross!”](#)
[How Christians Relate To Government And Nations](#)

What is God’s purpose for Government and nations?
How does God relate to government?
What makes any form of government a good form of government for Christians?
How should Christians relate to government leaders that are not Christian?

[What makes any form of government a good form of government for Christians?](#)

Jesus came in the fullness of time. When the church was born at Pentecost in 33AD, it could not have been born at a better time.

The contemporary idea of democracy, which was borne out of the political struggles in the city of Athens, came to fruition in the Roman Republic. Despite the occasional interference of a Roman emperor, the church of Jesus Christ was born at a time when religious liberty was protected by law.

There were obviously local problems and occasional accusations connecting religious sects to treason but for the most part there was a freedom protected by law to practice your faith and share your faith with others.

The Apostle Paul encouraged believers to pray for peace and the protection of religious liberty.

[1 Timothy 2:1-7](#)

[1](#) Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, [2](#) for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. [3](#) For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, [4](#) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. [5](#) For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, [6](#) who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, [7](#) for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle — I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying — a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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[What makes any form of government a good form of government for Christians?](#)
[A government that protects religious liberty!](#)

Religious liberty is under attack in the United States and has been under attack for many years. There was a time in our nation when the principal of a public school was protected by law to read the scriptures to the entire school and lead the students in prayer every morning.



The Supreme Court ruled in 1962 and 1963 that these practices in the public schools were unconstitutional.



The Supreme Court decided in 2015 to redefine traditional marriage between one man and one woman to include same sex marriage. This decision has created a genuine concern that there will be further attacks on religious liberty. This concern has been fueled by decisions by the lower courts that prevent Christians from discriminating against same sex couples and transgender individuals who want to use their businesses or who want to be hired by their establishments.

There is a concern that this decision will lead to an attack on the religious liberty of churches and other Christian organizations who currently discriminate against same sex couples and transgender individuals that want to use their facilities or that want to be hired to serve on their staff.

The opponents of the church compare such discrimination to racial discrimination and they compare what the bible says about homosexuality to hate speech.

They are asking the courts to rule that our discrimination practices are unconstitutional.

If this occurs, the church and all Christian organizations that do not submit will experience the consequences.

This raises the question...

[How should I as a Christian relate to government that does not protect religious liberty?](#)

Romans 13:1-7

1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. 5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

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- **Believe that God is sovereign. (Romans 13:1-7)**
It is only by the providence of God that our rulers have power, both the righteous and unrighteous.
He raises up leaders and He brings them down.
- **Submit to our rulers (Romans 13:1-7)**
This would include submitting to those whose moral condition is an offense to God. There is no provision for disobedience to the law based on a ruler's personal moral condition. There is no provision for not supporting our government financially based on a ruler's personal moral condition or our government's unjust decisions.

There is no justification for sedition based on our ruler's moral condition or our government's unjust decisions.
- **Honor our rulers (Romans 13:1-7)**
We honor our leaders not because they are righteous but because they are servants of God who is righteous. We honor them because of the position that God has given them.
- **Pray for them (1 Timothy 2:1-4)**
- **Speak the truth to them (Samuel; Nathan; Jeremiah; John the Baptist; Jesus; Paul)**
If you find that there is an injustice being committed and that the rulers are either blind or negligent, speak the truth to them.
- **Resist them (Acts 4:19-20; Acts 5:29)**
This should be our position if the authority is using their power to try and force us to do that which is morally wrong. We must obey God rather than men.
- **Call for their removal(Samuel)**
There are some forms of government that have no constitution to govern the rulers and how they rule. I deeply feel for those citizens that are subject to such a tyranny.

These citizens have no recourse but to flee since there is no rule of law for those who govern.

But in our country, we have the finest rule of law for our rulers and its citizens that has ever been written for a presidential republic. The constitution of the United States is superior to any other rule of law for our type of government. It was crafted by men that feared God.

If our current leaders do not follow the established laws that govern how they rule, we should call for their lawful removal.

When rulers do not follow the constitution that they pledged themselves to follow, they are no longer qualified to be rulers.

- [Suffer for righteousness \(Matthew 5:10-12; 1 Peter 3:13-17\)](#)

There are various ways to suffer for righteousness.

1. [Verbal assaults](#)

2. [Fleeing.](#)

It could mean fleeing from country and loved ones that you cherish as the pilgrims did when they fled to Holland and then to America.

3. [Loss of property.](#)

4. [Prison.](#)

5. [Physical harm.](#)

As we suffer we should follow the example of Christ.

[1 Peter 2:18-23](#)

[18](#) Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. [19](#) For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. [20](#) For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. [21](#) For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

[22](#) "Who committed no sin,
Nor was deceit found in His mouth";

[23](#) who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;
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When we suffer for any reason, we must avoid hardening our hearts to God.

[Hebrews 3:7-15](#)

[7](#) Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:

"Today, if you will hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works forty years. 10 Therefore I was angry with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.' 11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'"

12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, 15 while it is said:

"Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

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When we harden our hearts to God...

- We justify our sins against God.
- We damage the reputation of Jesus Christ.
- We destroy our own soul.
- We make choices that lead to painful consequences.
- We are disciplined by God

If we do not repent, God will give us up to our sin and allow sin to run its course.

Instead of hardening our hearts to God, we should commit ourselves to God knowing that He judges righteously. Even though we may suffer for a little while, our suffering is only temporary. Our suffering is one way that God uses us to redeem others.

We should encourage one another daily to avoid being hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Will you commit yourself to follow Christ and His Word in how you relate to our government and government leaders?

Will you commit yourself to God when you suffer and trust Him to work through your suffering to accomplish His redemptive purposes?

Will you repent this morning if you have hardened your heart to God?